

MINUTES OF THE
CITY OF SANTA FE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Santa Fe, New Mexico

June 4, 2003

A regular meeting of the City of Santa Fe Public Utilities Committee was called to order on this date at approximately 5:15 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers. Roll Call indicated the presence of a quorum, as follows:

Members Present:

Councilor Patti Bushee, Acting Chair
Councilor David Coss
Councilor Carol Robertson Lopez
Councilor Rebecca Wurzbarger

Members Excused:

Councilor Matthew Ortiz, Chair

Other Governing Body Members Present:

Councilor Karen Heldmeyer

Staff Present:

Mr. Galen Buller, Water Division
Mr. Rick Carpenter, Water Division
Mr. Dennis Gee, Public Utilities
Mr. Michael Gonzales, Water Division
Mr. Kyle Harwood, City Attorney's Office
Mr. Costy Kassiesieh, Wastewater Division
Mr. Robert Kidd, City Attorney's Office
Ms. Luana Montoya, Public Utilities
Ms. Jeanne Price, City Manager's Office
Mr. Dan Ransom, Water Division
Mr. David Schmiedicke, Water Division

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Wurzburger moved approval of the agenda, as published. Councilor Coss seconded the motion and it passed 4-0 by voice vote, with Councilor Bushee, Councilor Coss, Councilor Lopez and Councilor Wurzburger voting for, and none against.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Update Current Water Supply Status and Outlook for 2003 (Michael Gonzales)

Mr. Gonzales reviewed the weekly water report for the week ending June 1, 2003.

Mr. Gonzales noted combined well production (City and Buckman well field) averaged 8.43 mgd. He added that the weekly demand average was 10.981 mgd and the Las Campanas average was .76 mgd. Mr. Gonzales noted the reservoir capacity is up 8% over last year at this time to a total capacity read of 78%.

Councilor Lopez asked staff to break out water usage in Las Campanas listing residential vs. golf course function. She also noted a decrease in water consumption by Las Campanas from 1.42 mgd. to 0.72 mgd. Mr. Gee stated it was probably due to the recent rain.

Councilor Heldmeyer requested staff preparation of a year-to-date pumping report with each weekly water review. She added that this would aid in an ongoing comparison of current and past usage.

Response to Council Resolution No. 2002-38. (David Schmiedicke)

Mr. Schmiedicke reviewed his memo of May 6, 2003 and stated that residents of some guesthouses, condominiums, and mobile home parks are being charged small commercial water rates. He noted that in times of no drought, small commercial rates for customers on shared meters may actually have a lower cost than residential rates. He added that this presently is not the case as the City is in stage 2 water restrictions.

Mr. Schmiedicke stated that a cost of \$1,500 to \$3,000 per customer would be incurred to facilitate the installation of individual meters. He noted that this amount would cover the cost of the meter, meter can and basic plumbing materials. He added that each customer would be evaluated on a case-by-case

basis. Mr. Schmiedicke stated that it has been determined that over 2,000 accounts with refuse services are not being billed for water service. He added that this indicates they share a master water meter. Also of note, Mr. Schmiedicke said there are over 3,400 apartments with shared meters.

In the discussion that followed, Councilor Lopez suggested requesting assistance from the Water Conservation Department to subsidize customer costs. She added that perhaps a water budget could be implemented, thus spreading out the installation fee over a period of time.

Councilor Coss asked that staff produce a firmer estimate of the actual installation cost in order to have a clearer sense of the financial picture.

Councilor Lopez also recommended the hiring of a contractor for one year to work solely on this project.

Mr. Schmiedicke stated that a pilot project was going to be conducted in order to gather more information.

Mr. Schmiedicke noted that some benefits from this proposal would be: 1) No ordinance change is required, 2) No new rates are proposed, 3) No rate impact study is necessitated, and 4) It supports water conservation.

ACTION ITEMS

Request Approval of a Rain Barrel Distribution Program Guidelines; Award Of Bill #03/61/B and Budget Adjustment Request (Dan Ransom)

Mr. Ransom stated Home & Garden Innovations is the recommended responder, meeting all the specifications for the rain barrels. He noted that this was the lowest bidder, at a sum of \$98,663, or \$78.93 each, meeting the following conditions: 1) 75 gallon capacity; 2) on/off valve; 3) overflow outlet with hose to direct flow; 4) safety grid to prevent children and pets from entering; and 5) removable debris screen.

Mr. Ransom noted that the Water Division Staff proposed to sell the rain barrels to the City of Santa Fe Water Customers at \$40 per barrel as a water conservation measure. He added that the revenue from the barrel sales would facilitate the purchase/distribution of an additional 1,000 barrels. He reviewed the funding for this project and requested a budget adjustment in the amount of \$44,000.

Councilor Bushee remarked that her constituents are anxious for distribution. She suggested information regarding this program be broadly delivered to the public. She added that the quality of the product was excellent and the program is well received in her district.

Mr. Ransom said there is a proposed project-marketing plan. Councilor Lopez recommended using the radio stations to broadcast distribution date and time.

Councilor Coss moved approval of the request. Councilor Wurzburger seconded the motion and it passed 4-0 by voice vote, with Councilor Bushee, Councilor Coss, Councilor Lopez and Councilor Wurzburger for, and none against.

Request for Approval of Modification No. 001 to the Collection Agreement (No. 02-CO-1131000-018) with the USDA Forest Service (Rick Carpenter)

Councilor Wurzburger moved approval of the modification. Councilor Coss seconded the motion and it passed 4-0 by voice vote, with Councilor Bushee, Councilor Coss, Councilor Lopez and Councilor Wurzburger for, and none against.

Request for Approval of Bill No. 2003-____. An Ordinance Repealing Section 7 of Exhibit A to Chapter 22 SFCC 1987 and Creating a New Section 7 of Exhibit A to Chapter 22 SFCC 1987 Regarding Wastewater Utility Expansion Charges (Costy Kassiesieh)

Ms. Price distributed an updated draft (06/03/03) of the Ordinance and reviewed the changes contained therein [Submitted herewith as Exhibit "A".]

Ms. Price stated that Duncan Associates recommended the current impact fee for wastewater required in Chapter 14 SFCC, i.e. \$301 per single family unit, and the current sewer connection fee required in Chapter 7, i.e. \$176 per single family unit be repealed and in their place, a wastewater utility expansion charge (UEC) should be adopted. She added that the new UEC fee for a 1,500 sq. ft. single family dwelling would be \$499 compared to the combined \$477 under the current two fees structure. She noted the expected average new UEC is \$876 for a single-family residence and should generate 50% more than the current two fees produce.

Ms. Price stated that the City is not restricted in how the funds are used from the UEC revenue.

Councilor Bushee and Councilor Lopez indicated that they would sponsor this ordinance.

Councilor Heldmeyer asked if these fees were going to track with the UEC expansion charges that are going through the committee process.

Mr. Kassisieh stated that the fees would be going through on the same schedule.

Councilor Wurzburger moved approval of the Ordinance. Councilor Coss seconded the motion and it passed 4-0 by voice vote, with Councilor Bushee, Councilor Coss, Councilor Lopez and Councilor Wurzburger for, and none against.

ITEMS FROM STAFF

None.

ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE

Councilor Coss stated that PNM has formulated an environmental plan that included the Baca Street Well and asked staff to review that plan. He further stated that the Water Conservation Committee was involved in a cistern system review and asked if staff could have that included in the next meeting's agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Its business completed, the Committee adjourned at approximately 7:50 p.m.

Approved by:

Councilor Matthew Ortiz, Chair

Submitted by:

Patricia Clancy, Recorder

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